

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN - THE SECRE-
TARY'S STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY
THE SECRETARY AT THE CEREMONY OF THE RETURN OF THE CROWN.
THIS TEXT IS IN THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK AND HAS
BEEN GIVEN TO INTERPRETER CSANAD TOTH WHO WILL BRING HIS
TRANSLATION TO BUDAPEST DECEMBER 4 FOR COORDINATION WITH
EMBASSY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: (PARA) IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT AMERICA IS
A NATION OF NATIONS, AND INDEED WE HAVE GROWN AND PROS-
PERED BECAUSE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD. WE HAVE DRAWN COURAGE AND INSPIRATION FROM
THOSE WHO HAVE COME FROM OTHER NATIONS TO SETTLE IN AMERICA.
WE HAVE ALSO BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM THE FRIENDSHIP AND
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ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY NATIONS AND PEOPLE TO OUR 200 YEAR
OLD COUNTRY THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY. (PARA) THROUGHOUT
TWO CENTURIES OF COMMON HISTORY THE HUNGARIAN AND AMERICAN
PEOPLES HAVE FREQUENTLY LINKED THEIR DESTINIES. OUR INFANT
REPUBLIC STRUGGLING IN ITS WAR OF INDEPENDENCE WELCOMED
COL. MICHAEL KOVATS, WHO HELPED TO FOUND AND TRAIN THE

CAVALRY FORCES OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AT THE BATTLE OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. HISTORIANS TELL US THAT HUNGARIAN JOURNALS OF THE DAY WERE FULL OF DETAILED REPORTS OF AMERICA'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. IN THE NEW UNITED STATES, AMERICANS READ WITH JOY OF THE STRUGGLES OF RAKOCZY AND THE HUNGARIAN ATTEMPT TO THROW OFF THE HAPSBURG RULE. (PARA) SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY LATER, AMERICANS THRILLED TO HEAR OF PETOFI AND KOSSUTH AND THE FUNDING OF A HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC. NOT ONLY DID OUR REPUBLIC RECOGNIZE THE HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC, BUT IT BECAME THE ONLY COUNTRY TO ACCREDIT A DIPLOMATIC MINISTER TO THAT GOVERNMENT. (PARA) WHEN THE REPUBLIC WAS CRUSHED, AMERICA WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS THE STRUGGLE'S GREATEST HERO, LOUIS KOSSUTH, WHO WAS HONORED ALL OVER OUR COUNTRY AND ADDRESSED THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. THE IMPACT OF THIS GREAT MAN AND HIS IDEALS IS STILL SEEN THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES IN OUR MANY CITIES AND VILLAGES AND COUNTIES WHICH BEAR HIS PROUD NAME. (PARA) A CENTURY AGO WORSENING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN EUROPE AND THE PULL OF NEW LAND, NEW OPPORTUNITY AND FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES BECKONED MANY PEOPLE OF HUNGARY. INDEED, THIS FIRST GREAT WAVE OF IMMIGRATION FROM HUNGARY TO THE UNITED STATES -- WHICH LASTED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR -- BROUGHT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIANS TO OUR COUNTRY. THEY BECAME FARMERS AND SKILLED WORKERS; THEY DUG IN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINES; THEY BECAME BUSINESSMEN AND SCIENTISTS AND LEADERS IN THE ARTS. (PARA) TWICE IN THIS CENTURY FATE HAS DESTINED THAT TWO FRIENDLY PEOPLES WOULD, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE ALLIANCES, FIGHT TWO WORLD WARS ON OPPOSITE SIDES, BUT NOTHING ALTERED THE BASIC FRIENDSHIP OF OUR PEOPLES. IN 1919 IN POST-WAR BUDAPEST THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ALLIED POWERS, GENERAL HARRY BANDHOLTZ, PERSONALLY PLACED HIS OWN LIFE IN JEOPARDY AND STOOD IN THE PORTAL TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HUNGARY TO PROTECT AND DEFEND HUNGARY'S NATIONAL TREASURES. IN 1944, AS THE BATTLELINES MOVED WESTWARD INTO HUNGARY, THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND OTHER CORONATION REGALIA WERE MOVED FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL GUARD. FINALLY ON MARCH 25, 1945, THEY WERE REMOVED BY THE GUARD FROM HUNGARY'S SOIL AND TAKEN INTO AUSTRIA. AT THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II THE CROWN GUARD TURNED OVER THE CROWN AND REGALIA TO ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FOR SAFEKEEPING. IN THIS WAY, OUR DESTINIES AGAIN WERE LINKED. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT SEEK THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING AND SAFEGUARDING HUNGARY'S MOST TREASURED

NATIONAL SYMBOL, BUT WE ACCEPTED IT WILLINGLY. (PARA)

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DOUBT THAT THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN BELONGS TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE. THIS HAS BEEN THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SINCE WE RECEIVED THE CROWN IN 1945. WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT OUR ONLY ROLE WAS ONE OF KEEPING SAFE THIS UNIQUELY IMPORTANT HISTORIC RELIC, AND WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR RESPONSIBILITY WITH PRIDE AND DIGNITY. (PARA) WE BELIEVE THAT THIS HISTORICAL TREASURE, WHICH HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE HUNGARIAN NATION'S HISTORY FOR NEARLY ONE THOUSAND YEARS, SHOULD BE IN HUNGARY FOR ITS PEOPLE AND FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO CHERISH. (PARA) WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR DECISION WILL ENCOURAGE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS, AND RESPONDS TO THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

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OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE. THE CROWN IS A SYMBOL OF THE NATIONAL SPIRIT AND FAITH AND OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF HUNGARY. WE ALSO HOPE THAT IT WILL FOSTER THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, TO WHICH THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DEDICATED. (PARA) AND SO MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS MY SPECIAL PLEASURE AND UNIQUE PRIVILEGE, ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, REPRESENTED HERE BY SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER HONORED AND DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN CITIZENS, TO RETURN TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND CORONATION REGALIA OF HUNGARY. END TEXT CHRISTOPHER

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